NOAA FISHERIES

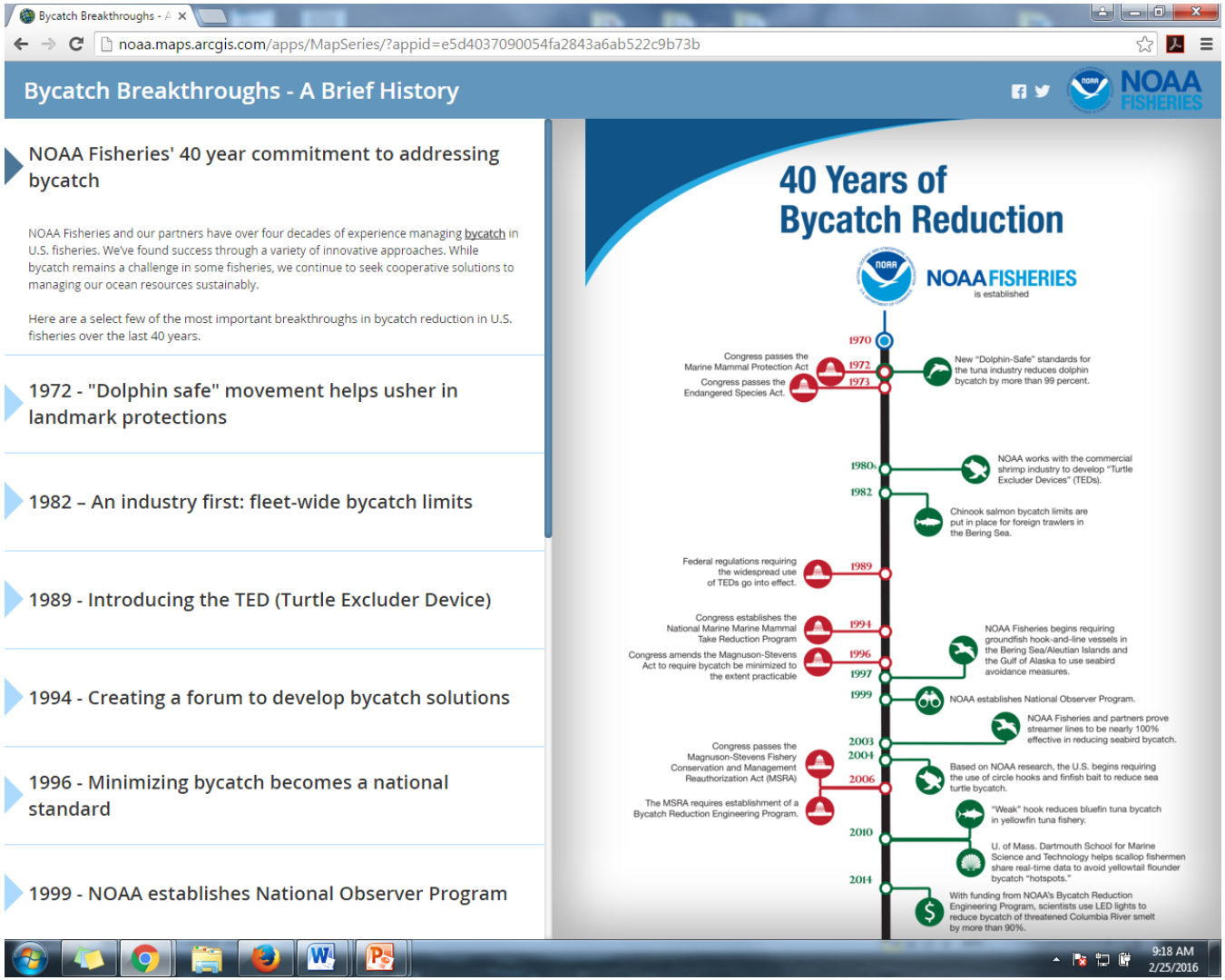
National Bycatch Update

2016

Topics

- New NOAA Fisheries web content
- Draft National Bycatch Reduction Strategy
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)
- Action Plan for Fish Release Mortality Science

Bycatch Breakthroughs



Perspectives on Bycatch

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40 YEARS MAGNUSON STEVENS ACT
A Journey to Sustainable Fisheries
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Bycatch Bites

Bycatch—animals that fishermen don't want, cannot sell, or are not allowed to keep—comes in many different forms and affects people in different ways. We asked a few of these people for their perspectives on bycatch. Read them below.

Steve Witthuhn
Captain, Top Hook Fishing Charters
New York

"Fishing is about bending the rods, education and giving my customers a good experience. If I don't have product in the water, I'm out of business. I care about bycatch because you can't just push a button and make more fish. So I make sure conservation is part of the experience. That means we don't take more fish than we need, and make sure the fish we release to swim away, don't float away. One thing we do is use release tools to make sure fish pulled up from deep water survive. I'm in this for the long-haul."

Marydele Donnelly
Director of Int'l Policy, Sea Turtle Conservancy
Florida

"Many fisheries produce bycatch when they accidentally capture non-target species like sea turtles. Bycatch is a terrible waste, and it's bad for the health of the oceans. I've worked to reduce sea turtle bycatch for more than 30 years because sea turtles are magnificent animals in their own right and integral to healthy marine ecosystems. Today many fixes to reduce sea turtle bycatch are available but not all are used as extensively as they should be. One thing the U.S. has done well is to push the

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2016/02/bycatch_bites.html

NMFS Bycatch Website

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Bycatch

Now Accepting Public Comment on the Draft National Bycatch Reduction Strategy

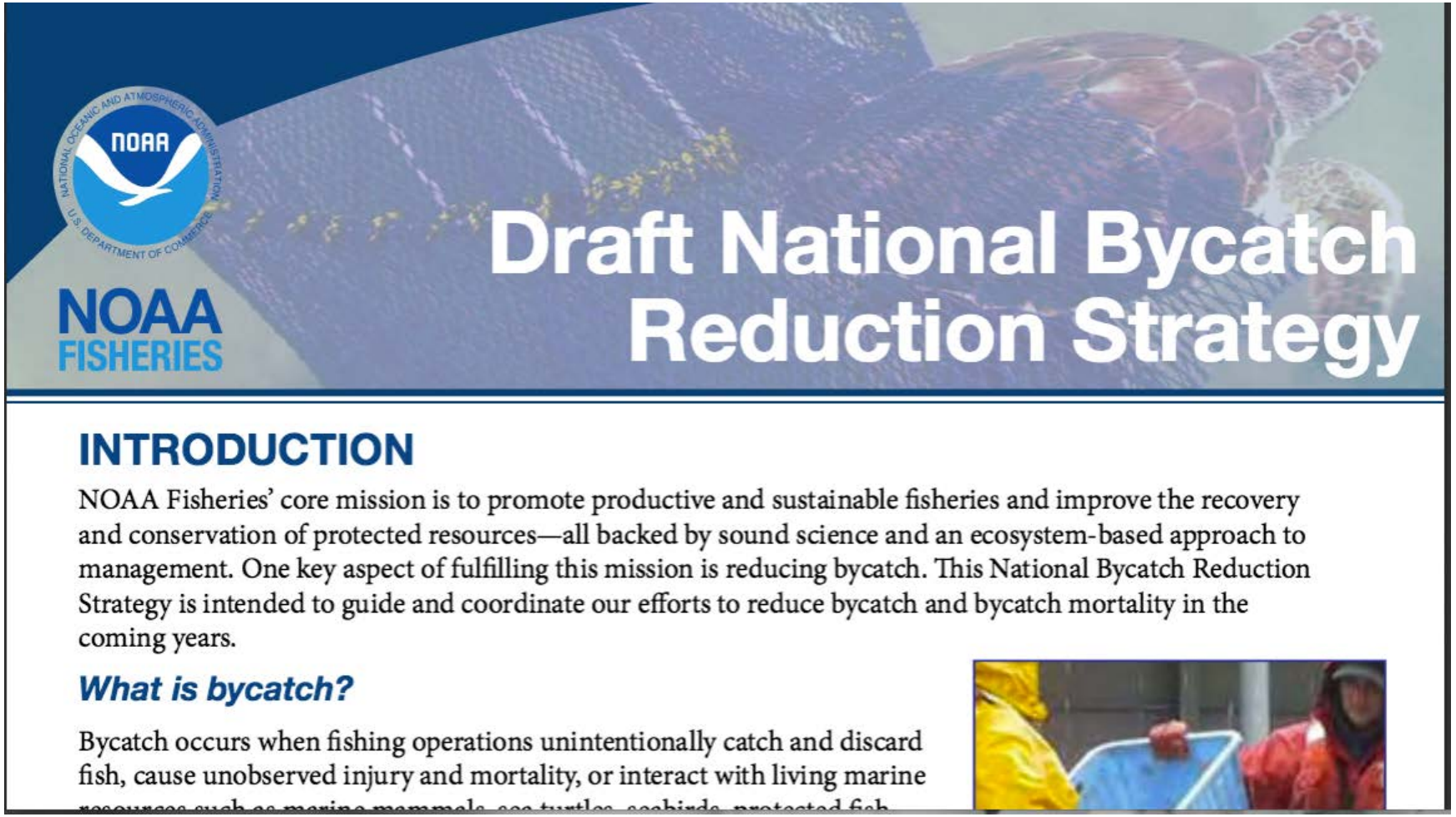
*Comment Period closes June 3, 2016

Hot Topics

- COMMENT NOW: Proposed Rule: Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology *Comment period closes 4/25/2016*
- NEW: National Bycatch Report Update 2
- NEW: Action Plan for Fish Release Mortality Science
- NEW: 2014 BREP Report to Congress
- 2016 BREP Funding Opportunity now open!
- Perspectives on Bycatch
- About the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sfa/bycatch

Overview of the Strategy



http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/bycatch/strategy.html

National Bycatch Strategy Goal

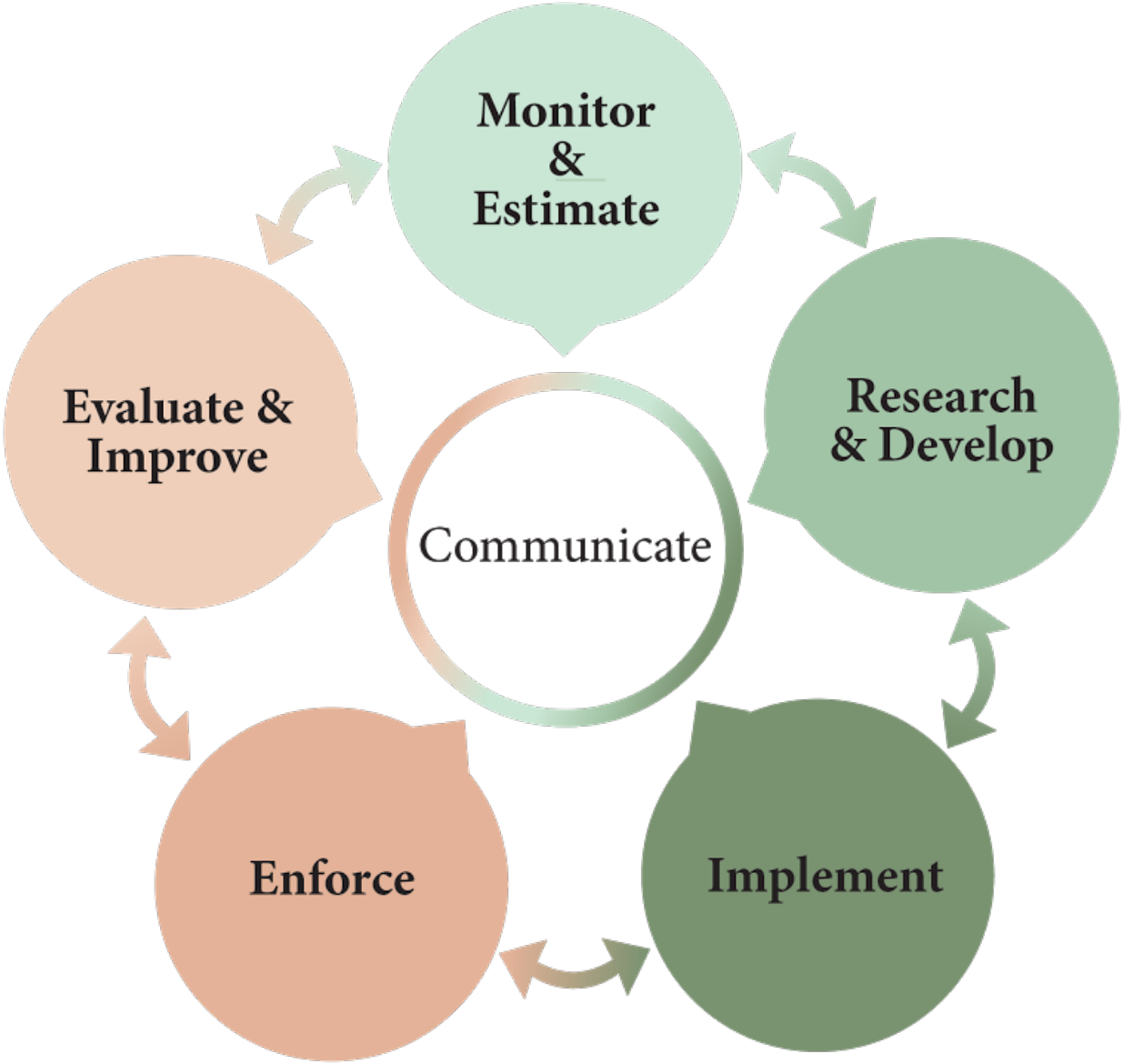
To guide and coordinate NOAA Fisheries' efforts under the MSA, MMPA, ESA, and other relevant mandates to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality and encourage utilization of discards to maintain sustainable fisheries while conserving and recovering protected species.

What is Bycatch?

- Bycatch occurs when fishing operations unintentionally catch and discard fish, cause unobserved injury and mortality, or interact with living marine resources.

- "Reducing bycatch" refers to efforts that minimize bycatch or that minimize the mortality, serious injury, and impact of bycatch that does occur. This also encompasses efforts to encourage utilization of fish that may otherwise be discarded.

National Bycatch Strategy-Logic Model:



Objectives

1. Strengthen monitoring and data collection programs

2. Clarify bycatch research needs and support research programs

Objectives

3. Improve discard and take estimates

4. Improve management measures

Objectives

5. Strengthen coordination with law enforcement
6. Improve communication and engagement

National Bycatch Strategy Implementation

- National and Regional Action Plans will be developed in coordination with partners and stakeholders to identify priority actions.

- Action plans will guide efforts across the agency to ensure a coordinated, transparent effort to achieve goal of the Strategy.

National Bycatch Strategy Next Steps

- The draft Strategy is available online.
- Comments will be accepted until June 3, 2016.
- You can submit comments to nmfs.bycatch@noaa.gov

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Proposed Rule

- Magnuson Steven's Act (MSA) Section 303(a)(11) requires FMPs to establish standardize reporting methodologies to assess the amount and type of bycatch in a fishery.

- Purpose is to articulate an interpretation of the basic requirements of the SBRM provision of the MSA to promote transparency and consistency.

SBRM – Key Components

- Defining “standardized reporting methodology” as applicable only to the definition of “bycatch” in the MSA.
- Clarified procedures for establishing, documenting, and reviewing SBRMs under the MSA.
- Mechanisms for ensuring operational and implementation flexibility within the available budget.

Definitions

- *Standardized reporting methodology* means an established procedure or procedures used to collect, record, and report bycatch data in a fishery or subset of a fishery.

- "Standardized" procedures may vary from one fishery to another but must provide a consistent approach for collecting, recording and reporting bycatch data.

Contents of FMPs

All FMPs:

- Must clearly describe a standardized reporting methodology
- Must explain why the methodology will provide the data appropriate to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery
- May incorporate by reference existing analyses or other documents.

Considerations

- Required considerations:
  - Conservation and management objectives related to bycatch
  - Data quality associated with the methodology
  - Feasibility and cost

- Other considerations:
  - Amount of bycatch occurring in the fishery
  - Importance of bycatch in estimating the total mortality of fish stocks
  - Importance of bycatch to related ecosystems
  - Overall magnitude and/or economic impact of the fishery
  - Scientific methods and techniques available to improve bycatch estimates

Adaptable Implementation

- FMPs may include a process for adjusting the implementation of the methodology
- The process must specify the types of adjustments to be used (changes in intensity or frequency of data collection and reporting)
- Must describe limits of use such a process and how the Council will determine a reevaluation of the methodology is warranted

Review

- All FMPs must be consistent with this rule within five years of finalizing the rule

- Councils should periodically review SBRMs at least every five years

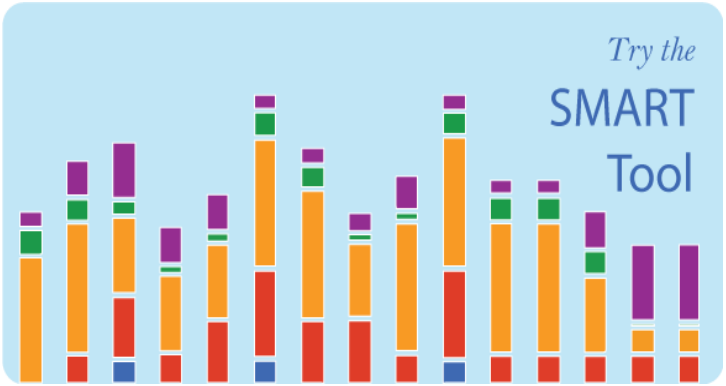
Expected Effect

- Improved clarity and transparency of the basic requirements to establish SBRMs under MSA

- Greater clarity about the policy choices made by the Council to establish an SBRM that is appropriate for assessing bycatch and that is feasible with available funding

Action Plan for Fish Release Mortality Science

- Sets goals and objectives to guide our science efforts related to bycatch and release mortality to inform stock assessments and management processes
- Includes a “simple multi-attribute rating technique” (SMART) tool to help prioritize stocks for discard and release mortality research
- Use of the SMART tool applies a consistent and systematic framework when prioritizing research efforts
- NOAA Fisheries staff can provide assistance for using and customizing the SMART tool



https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/bycatch/discard-and-release-mortality

Other bycatch activities

- Bycatch Reduction Engineering Report to Congress
- Bycatch Reduction Engineering 2016 Federal Funding Opportunity
- National Bycatch Report – online update

- More info -- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sfa/bycatch

Questions and Discussion

Submit Public Comment on the Draft National Bycatch Strategy at nmfs.bycatch@noaa.gov